

September 12, 2002

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Corn and Soybean Production Lower

Maryland: Based on conditions as of September 1st, corn and soybean production are expected to be down from 2001, according to the Maryland Agricultural Statistics Service. **Corn** production is forecast at 33.2 million bushels, down 41 percent from last year's production of 55.8 million bushels, and down 47 percent from 2000's production of 62.8 million bushels. Yield is projected at 78 bushels per acre, down 58 bushels from last year's estimate of 136 bushels per acre. According to the Crop Progress Report for August 26th, corn condition stands at 1 percent excellent, 10 percent good, 16 percent fair, 29 percent poor, and 44 percent very poor. As of August 26th, 39 percent of the corn was mature, well ahead of the average of 17 percent for this time of the year.

Soybean production is forecast at 10.6 million bushels, down 47 percent from last year's production of 20.1 million bushels, and down 52 percent from 2000's production level of 22.1 million bushels. Yield is forecast at 21 bushels per acre, down 18 bushels from 2001's final estimate of 39 bushels per acre. From the August 26th Crop Progress Report, soybean condition was rated 7 percent good, 18 percent fair, 34 percent poor, and 41 percent very poor. As of August 26th, 15 percent of the soybeans had turned color, 9 percent ahead of the average for this time of year.

United States: **Corn** production is forecast at 8.85 billion bushels, down less than 1 percent from last month and down 7 percent from 2001. Based on conditions as of September 1, yields are expected to average 125.4 bushels per acre, up 0.2 bushel from August but down 12.8 bushels from last year. If realized, both the yield and production would be at their lowest levels since 1995. Yields are lower than last month across much of the Corn Belt and along the Atlantic Coastal Plains as hot and dry conditions persist. However, yields are up in the northern Corn Belt, northern Great Plains, and southern Great Plains where total precipitation for the month was above normal. Farmers expect to harvest 70.5 million acres of corn for grain, down 460,000 acres from August but up 3 percent from 2001.

Soybean production is forecast at 2.66 billion bushels, up 1 percent from August but 8 percent below 2001. Based on September 1 conditions, yields are expected to average 37.0 bushels per acre, up 0.5 bushel from last month. If realized, this would be the lowest production since 1999. Acreage for harvest is forecast at 71.8 million acres, down slightly from August and 2 percent below last year. Area expected for harvest was decreased by 230,000 acres in four States due to abandonment. The States with the largest acreage reductions are Kansas and Nebraska. Downward adjustments to harvested acres were also made in North Carolina and South Dakota. Yield prospects improved in Arkansas, Oklahoma, and across the northern Corn Belt due to mild temperatures and adequate moisture supplies. Yield prospects declined along the Ohio Valley and Atlantic Coast States due to above normal temperatures.

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**Acreage, Yield, and Production
2001 and 2002**

Commodity	Unit	Planted		Harvested		Average Yield		Production	
		2001	2002	2001	2002	2001	2002	2001	2002
Maryland		<i>1,000 Acres</i>						<i>1,000</i>	
Corn ¹	ACR	490	500	----	----	----	----	----	----
Corn Grain	BU	----	----	410	425	136	78	55,760	33,150
Corn Silage	TON	----	----	75	²	15	²	1,125	²
Soybeans	BU	520	510	515	505	39	21	20,085	10,605
Sorghum ¹	BU	9	5	----	----	----	----	----	----
Sorghum Grain	BU	----	----	8	4	83	²	664	²
Sorghum Silage	TON	----	----	1	²	14	²	14	²
Winter Wheat	BU	190	195	175	180	63	68	11,025	12,240
Barley	BU	55	45	51	41	75	81	3,825	3,321
All Hay	TON	----	----	225	220	2.3	²	522	²
Alfalfa Hay	TON	----	----	65	70	3.1	²	202	²
Other Hay	TON	----	----	160	150	2.0	²	320	²
Tobacco	LBS	----	----	2.2	1.7	1,500	1,400	3,300	2,380
Potatoes, Summer	CWT	4.8	4.8	4.7	4.7	250	250	1,175	1,175
United States								<i>1,000,000</i>	
Corn ¹	ACR	75,752	78,847	----	----	----	----	----	----
Corn Grain	BU	----	----	68,808	70,541	138.2	125.4	9,507	8,849
Corn Silage	TON	----	----	6,148	²	17	²	102	²
Soybeans	BU	74,105	73,043	73,000	71,799	39.6	37.0	2,891	2,656
Sorghum ¹	BU	10,252	9,290	----	----	----	----	----	----
Sorghum Grain	BU	----	----	8,584	7,528	59.9	51.0	515	384
Sorghum Silage	TON	----	----	336	²	11.1	²	4	²
Wheat, Winter	BU	41,078	41,362	31,295	29,764	43.5	38.9	1,361	1,159
Barley	BU	4,967	5,048	4,289	4,499	58.2	55.9	250	252
All Hay	TON	----	----	63,511	64,709	2.47	2.36	157	153
Alfalfa Hay	TON	----	----	23,812	24,134	3.37	3.09	80	75
Other Hay	TON	----	----	39,699	40,575	1.93	1.92	76	78
Tobacco	LBS	----	----	432.4	435.5	2,293	2,037	992	887
Potatoes, Summer	CWT	61.1	63.6	58.8	60.6	310	310	18	19

¹ Acres planted is for all purposes.

² Published January 2003